
Appendix I

*District Office Transportation Planning Activities
(1996 Addendum)*

District Office Transportation Planning Activities

Introduction

The Indiana Department of Transportation's (INDOT) development, construction and operational management of the state transportation system is directed by a central office in Indianapolis and six (6) highway district offices. These geographically diverse districts include Crawfordsville, Fort Wayne, Greenfield, LaPorte, Seymour, and Vincennes (see **Figure 1**). INDOT's district boundaries are designed to balance the state's total highway system mileage evenly among the six districts.

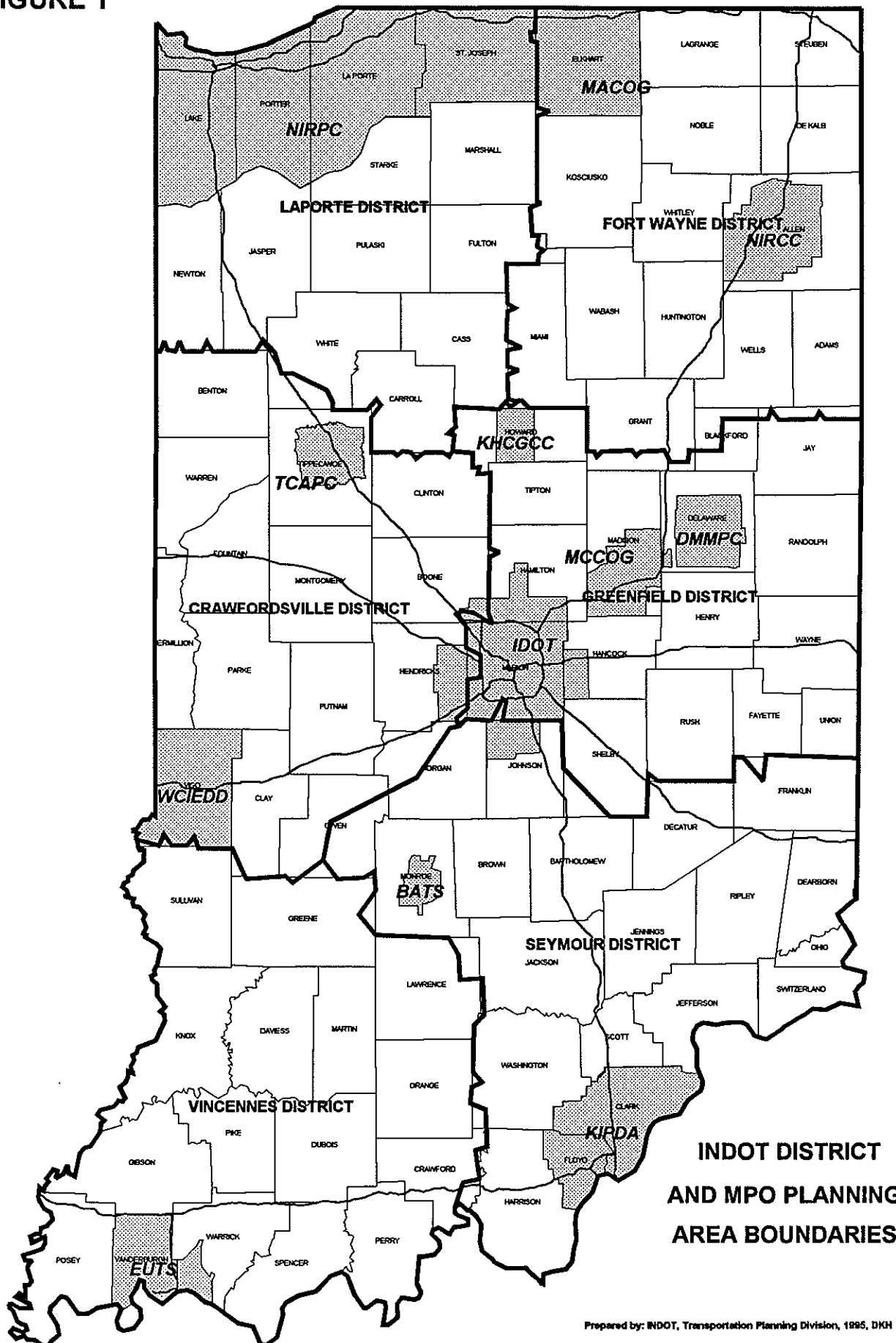
INDOT's district offices serve as the primary point of contact for identifying the transportation needs of Indiana's highway system. By virtue of their daily interaction with the public and other stakeholders, each district has decentralized decisionmaking responsibilities for identifying jurisdictional development needs, programming recommendations, construction oversight, and operational maintenance. Decentralized authority assures the state's transportation system users that they have direct local input to INDOT's decisionmaking processes.

The Transportation Planning Process and Public Participation

The transportation planning process at the district level calls for early and direct interaction between INDOT's Transportation Planning Division, the district development engineer's and the general public. Communication is the key component for adequate coordination. Planning liaison responsibilities with district personnel are assigned to the Transportation Planning staff, who maintain periodic communication. District liaison functions may include the following:

- Tracking of district highway projects;
- Communication and interaction with district personnel;
- Review for consistency between district plans and statewide plans;
- Inclusion of district input into planning processes;

FIGURE 1



- Technical assistance regarding INDOT's public involvement process, and;
- Coordination of INDOT district projects with projects planned by the state's urbanized area metropolitan planning organizations.

Public participation is a principal objective of all INDOT Districts. District staff meetings with counties and communities typically focus on the local concerns of the general public and concerns of local government officials (e.g., mayors, town board officials and county commissioners). INDOT's district offices have traditionally been a focal point for local public involvement. This fact was reinforced with enactment of the *Intermodal Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991* (ISTEA).

INDOT's development of a statewide multimodal transportation plan also led to a broadening of public involvement. Beginning in 1993, INDOT's central and district offices initiated annual statewide meetings to review and discuss transportation planning and programming issues. These statewide meetings featured afternoon and evening sessions in each of the six (6) INDOT districts. All session meetings were designed to maximize opportunities for the public, businesses, interest groups and government officials to review and comment on topics of statewide interest and local concern.

The second annual set of statewide planning and programming meetings in 1994 covered a wide variety of issues but focused on the following general topics:

- The selection of airport, highway, rail and transit projects within each district,
- The long-range planning process approach currently used by INDOT to identify transportation system issues, trends, and program needs, and
- The statewide *Multimodal Transportation Policy Plan* drafted by INDOT in the spring and summer of 1994.

Following an initial meeting in the Greenfield District on July 12, 1994, additional statewide meetings were held on July 14th in LaPorte, July 21st in Fort Wayne, July 26th in Seymour, July 28th in Jasper, and August 4th in Crawfordsville. Discussions involved planning and programming processes, and project funding issues. Statements by interest groups and individuals were encouraged following presentations by INDOT staff. Formal statements and comments were submitted by several groups. Staff workshops were also used at

these meetings to provide the public a “one-on-one” opportunity to ask questions about Indiana's transportation system, projects, and areas of individual interest. Each district workshop covered a broad array of transportation subjects, such as Indiana's railroad, airport and public transportation systems; highway projects currently under development; transportation planning activities; the Department's public participation process; environmental analyses and services; and the Transportation Enhancement Program.

Table 1 below notes the attendance at the annual statewide meetings in the summer of 1994. Total attendance at the 1994 district meetings was estimated at four hundred and twenty nine (429) participants. This estimate was based on registration lists and actual attendance counts by INDOT staff. Public participation at the annual statewide meetings in each district is expected to improve in future years with additional outreach efforts by INDOT's Public Affairs Division.

Table 1
INDOT Statewide District Meetings

INDOT District	Meeting Date	Session Attendance	
		2:00 p.m.	7:00 p.m.
Greenfield	July 12, 1994	30	8
LaPorte	July 14, 1994	57	23
Fort Wayne	July 21, 1994	53	22
Seymour	July 26, 1994	55	20
Vincennes	July 28, 1994	50	28
Crawfordsville	August 4, 1994	67	16
Attendance		312	117

Source: INDOT, Public Affairs Division, 1994.

District Outreach Initiatives and Major Projects

All INDOT districts recognize the importance of incorporating diverse citizen input into the decisionmaking process. They further realize that the list of participants continues to grow. For example, advocates of non-motorized forms of travel, particularly bicycle and rail-to-trail enthusiasts, have emerged as one of the most vocal transportation interest groups in the state. Intermodal transportation representatives are also viewed as major stakeholders who must be consulted in the development of transportation policies. Trucking companies, railroad companies, local airport officials, and public transportation officials are

among those transportation interest groups that are expected to participate more actively in future district-based planning efforts.

Each district is responsible for improving and expanding existing citizen involvement programs. Most report that they will build on previous programs, adding more meetings with officials and the public. The district offices continually evaluate opportunities to improve the effectiveness of their public participation efforts. Clearly defined district-based programs do not yet exist. However, recent initiatives undertaken by each district are described below, followed by a list of current major projects programmed within the district between 1996 and 2000.

Crawfordsville District Planning Activities

The Crawfordsville District conducts public participation meetings in each county of the district. These meetings routinely involve local government officials such as mayors, county commissioners, and city or county engineers. They may also involve community business representatives and the general public. The district's Local Assistance Coordinator has an active public outreach effort that involves public service organizations as well as economic development groups. The Local Assistance Coordinator can provide minutes, agendas, and attendance lists from previous meetings as documentation of public participation work completed in the Crawfordsville District. Major projects currently programmed for development in the Crawfordsville District include the following:

- I-65 and S.R. 39 Boone County - Interchange Modification;
- I-65 and S.R. 334 Boone County - Interchange Modification;
- I-70 and S.R. 267 Hendricks County - Interchange Modification;
- I-70 and Six Points Road - New Interchange;
- I-74 West of the Hendricks/Marion County Line - New Interchange;
- U.S. 40, Hendricks County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 231, Montgomery County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 231, Tippecanoe County - Road Relocation;
- U.S. 421, Hamilton County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 26, Tippecanoe County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 32 Boone County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 641 Vigo County - New Road Construction.

Greenfield District Planning Activities

The Greenfield District conducted public participation meetings in the urbanized and non-urbanized areas of its jurisdiction during the past year. The district's public meetings were primarily to discuss projects. The district staff can provide information on each of the public meetings held during the past year. Major projects currently programmed for the Greenfield District include the following:

- U.S. 52 in Marion County - Added Travel Lanes;
- I-65 and South County Line Road in Marion County - New Interchange Construction;
- I-69 and 82nd Street in Marion County - Interchange Modification;
- I-69 and 96th Street in Hamilton County - Interchange Modification;
- I-70 from I-465 to Six Points Road in Marion County - New Interchange;
- I-70 and Post Road in Marion County - Interchange Modification, and;
- I-465 and Shadeland Avenue in Marion County - Interchange Modification.
- U.S. 31 in Marion County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 36 in Marion County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 40 in Marion County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 37 in Hamilton County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 38 in Hamilton County - New Road Construction;
- S.R. 67 in Delaware County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 109 in Madison County - New Road Construction;

Fort Wayne District Planning Activities

During the last year, the Fort Wayne District conducted public meetings regarding various projects in both rural and urban areas. The district staff can provide information on each of the meetings held during the last year. Major projects currently programmed for the Fort Wayne District include the following:

- I-69 and S.R. 3 in Allen County - Interchange Modification;
- I-69 and U.S. 24 in Allen County - Interchange Modification;

- I-469 in Allen County - New Road Construction;
- U.S. 6 in Noble County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 27 in Adams County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 33 in Allen County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 33 in Elkhart County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 9 in Grant County - Added Travel Lanes;, and;
- S.R. 206 in DeKalb County - New Road Construction.

LaPorte District Planning Activities

The LaPorte District will use three locations for public participation activities. Outreach efforts will focus on the northwestern Indiana urbanized area and two rural areas of the district. Public participation meetings have been held in the urbanized area, but a suitable method to reach the rural areas of the district has not yet been defined. The LaPorte District was asked to provide information on each of the public meetings held over the last year. Major projects currently programmed for the LaPorte District include the following:

- I-65 and 61st Avenue in Lake County - Interchange Modification;
- I-80 and Burr Street in Lake County - Interchange Modification;
- U.S. 35 in LaPorte County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 30 in Lake County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 33 in St. Joseph County - Added Travel Lanes;
- U.S. 41 in Lake County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 23 in St. Joseph County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 49 in Porter County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 51 in Lake County - Added Travel Lanes, and;
- S.R. 55 in Lake County - Added Travel Lanes.

Seymour District Planning Activities

The Seymour District believes that the best method to ensure adequate public participation in the planning process is to hold meetings in all six subdistricts. This year meetings have been held in the Aurora Subdistrict. The district office has been asked to provide information on each of these public meetings held during the last year. Major projects currently programmed for the Seymour District include the following:

- I-65 in Clark County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 46 in Bartholomew County - Added Travel Lanes, and;
- S.R. 46 in Monroe County - Added Travel Lanes.

Vincennes District Planning Activities

The Vincennes District held roundtable meetings this past year in each county of the district. This effort accounted for sixteen (16) separate meetings. The participants of these meetings included local government officials, local Chambers of Commerce, and the general public. Officials at the district have been asked to provide information on each of the public meetings held during the last year. Major projects currently programmed for the Vincennes District include the following:

- U.S. 231 Dubois County - New Road Construction;
- U.S. 50 Knox County - Added Travel Lanes;
- S.R. 237 Perry County - New Road Construction;
- S.R. 69 Posey County - New Road Construction;
- S.R. 62 Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties - Added Travel Lanes, and;
- S.R. 66 Vanderburgh and Warrick Counties - Added Travel Lanes.